

Send Your Grass Back to its Roots.

What's the law?

Effective October 1, 1998, Connecticut state law says grass clippings may not be burned in any waste-to-energy plant, nor buried in any landfill.

What does that mean to me?

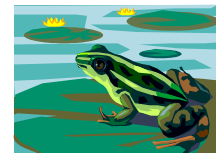
The Town collector will NOT pick up grass clippings with garbage, yard waste or leaves!
The Town cannot accept grass clippings at the Transfer Station to be put with the garbage.
The Town cannot accept grass clippings at the Transfer Station to be put with bulky waste.

So what should I do with grass clippings?

- ✿ Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. They will decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer.
- ✿ Put grass clippings in your home compost pile. Mix them in with leaves while the clippings are fresh, and both leaves and clippings will benefit. Don't try to compost a pile of straight clippings, or it will get anaerobic and smelly!
- ✿ Use dried clippings as mulch. Dried clippings about an inch thick can reduce weeds, moderate soil temperature, and control erosion caused by soil spattering.
- ✿ Dig fresh clippings directly into garden soil. This adds nutrients and organic matter which improves the texture and moisture retention abilities of the soil.
- ✿ Take clippings to Greencycle/Grillo Organic, 1183 Oronoque Road/Milford for **\$5/cubic yard**. Call 203-877-5070 for more information. (The Town cannot recommend this, or any other company. If you know of other facilities that should be added to this list, contact Peg Hall at the phone number below.)

Never place grass clippings in or near storm drains, wetlands, or watercourses.

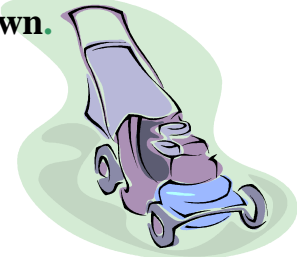
Remember that fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides from your lawn can run off during storms and harm groundwater, wetlands, and watercourses. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn to act as a natural fertilizer reduces the amount of pollutants that can poison our water, flora, and fauna.



Watering Practices

The precipitation rate in Branford is high, so turf grasses do not have to be watered much to survive. Even during times of drought, lawns that may turn brown or yellow will quickly become green when soil moisture is replaced. The following information may help you to help Mother Nature:

- @ Unless your lawn truly needs it, please conserve water by letting Mother Nature water your lawn.**
- @ The more you water your lawn, the faster it grows, which leads to more frequent mowing.**
- @ If you must water your lawn, water in the morning as less water will be lost through evaporation. Lawns that are damp during the evening are more prone to disease.**
- @ Frequent watering encourages shallow roots which can mean stress and disease for your lawn. Deeper, less frequent watering encourages deeper root growth and a healthier lawn.**



Mowing Tips

- @ Mow when the grass is dry**
- @ Keep your mower blade sharp**
- @ Don't cut your lawn too short! The shorter it is kept, the more often it will have to be mowed as the grass races to catch up. This stress causes the lawn to be less vigorous.**
- @ If grass grows excessively between mowings, raise the mower height and lower it gradually over a span of several mowings. This will help to prevent shock to the plants.**
- @ Mow over the clippings a second time if grass is too high to further shred and scatter the clippings.**
- @ When the time comes to replace your current mower, consider purchasing a mulching, recycling, or reel mower, all of which do a wonderful job of shredding and scattering grass clippings.**
- @ Remember, a healthy lawn and plantings will tend to outgrow weeds and resist insects, which in turn limits the need for pesticides.**
- @ For information on how to keep pests out of your lawn and garden while keeping it safe for your family, visit the Department of Environmental Protection website @<http://www.dep.state.ct.us>.**

For more information on lawn care, composting, gardening, and pest management, please visit our website at www.Branford-CT.gov or phone the Department of Solid Waste & Recycling at 315-0622.